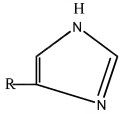
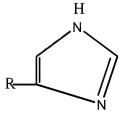
LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for preparing an imidazole compound having the formula



wherein R is selected from the group consisting of aryl, alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl radicals and substituted derivatives thereof wherein said substituted derivatives may include one or more heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of halogen, oxygen, nitrogen sulfur and phosphorus atoms which comprises reacting a cyano compound having the formula R-C≡N wherein R is not bonded to the cyano group through a S, O or N atom and R does not include a H atom allylic or benzylic to the cyano group, with a silylmethyl isocyanide compound to yield



2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said silylmethylisocyanide compound is trimethylsilyl methyl isocyanide.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said trimethyl silylmethylisocyanide is prepared by reacting formamide with trimethylsilyl chloride to prepare trimethylsilylmethyl formamide and trimethylsilylmethylformamide is reacted with CH_2Cl_2 to yield trimethylsilylmethyl isocyanide.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said trimethylsilylchloride is reacted in the presence of dimethylformamide and sodium hydride to yield trimethylsilylmethylformamide.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein trimethylsilylmethylformamide is reacted with CH_2Cl_2 in the presence of diisopropylamine and phosphorus oxychloride to yield trimethylsilylmethylisocyanide.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said cyano compound is 3-cyclohexane-1-acetonitrile and the resulting imidazole compound is 4(5-(cyclohexene-4-ylmethyl)imidazole.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said cyano compound is 2-cyclopent-3-enylethanenitrile and the resulting imidazole compound is 4-(cyclopent-3-enylmethyl)imidazole.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said cyano compound is isobutyronitrile and the resulting imidazole compound is 4(5)-isopropylimidazole.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said cyano compound is benzonitrile and the resulting imidazole compound is 4(5)-phenylimidazole.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said cyano compound is trimethylacetonitrile and the resulting imidazole compound to yield 4(5)-t-butylimidazole.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said cyano compound is α, α-dimethylbenzylcyanide and the resulting imidazole is 4(5)-α, α-dimethylbenzylimidazole.

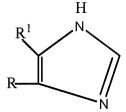
12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said cyano compound is 3-cyanopyridine and the resulting imidazole is 4(5)-(3-pyridyl)imidazole.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said cyano compound is thiophene-2-carbonitrile and the resulting imidazole is 4(5)-(2-thienyl)imidazole.

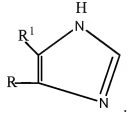
14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said cyano compound is thiophene-3-carbonitrile and the resulting imidazole is 4(5)-(3-thienyl)imidazole.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said cyano compound is 3-phenyl propiontrile and the resulting imidazole is 4(5)-(2-phenethyl)imidazole.

16. (Original) A method for preparing an imidazole compound having the formula



wherein R is selected from the group consisting of aryl, alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl radicals and substituted derivatives thereof wherein said substituted derivatives may include one or more heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of halogen, oxygen, nitrogen sulfur and phosphorus atoms which comprises reacting a cyano compound having the formula R-C≡N wherein R is not bonded to the cyano group through a S, O or N atom and R does not include a H atom allylic or benzylic to the cyano group and R^1 is a lower alkyl group, with a silylmethyl isocyanide compound to yield



.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein said sily methyl isocyanide compound is trimethyl (lower alkyl) methyl isocyanide.

18-20 Cancelled